

Application/Control Number: 10/285,611 (Yankee)

Art Unit: 3632

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In the Specification:

Paragraph 2 of page 9 has been amended, as follows, to add reference numerals for the aforementioned safety circuit (60) and associated switch (62).

In Figure 1, a new and improved automobile entry detector for garages 10 of the present invention for signaling the driver when the entire length of a vehicle has passed into the parking structure is illustrated and will be described. More particularly, the automobile entry detector for garages 10 has a light transmitter 12 and a light receptor 14 located at the forward end of each side 16 of a parking structure 18, such as a typical garage. The light transmitter 12 transmits a beam of light 20 to the light receptor 14 which is broken when the leading edge 22 of the vehicle 24 enters the parking structure 18. The light receptor 14 includes an LED 26 that is illuminated when the light beam 20 is broken. Once the trailing edge 28 of the vehicle 24 passes the transmitter 12 and receptor 14, the light beam 20 is once again unbroken, and the LED 26 is extinguished. In addition a position indicator lamp 30 is positioned on the rear wall 58 of the parking structure 18 to signal the driver that the vehicle 24 is properly positioned. An existing garage door opener controller 34 can be used to control the circuit. The light transmitter 12 is connected to the indicator lamp 30 by a wire 32 passing along or through the side 16 of the structure 18. The light receptor 14 is connected to the garage door control switch 36 in a similar manner. The control switch 36 and the indicator lamp 30 are wired to the garage door opener controller 34. To control the indicator lamp 30, a photocell could be connected to the light receptor 14 and to the indicator lamp 30 to automatically activate the lamp 30 when the light beam 20 is broken, extinguishing the lamp 30 after the vehicle 24 is properly positioned in the parking structure 18. Alternatively, a light pipe could be used to transmit light from the light receptor LED 26 to the rear wall 58 of the parking structure 18. A third alternative would be to add a switch 62 to the safety circuit 60 responsible for preventing the garage door from closing if an interruption of the light beam 20 is detected. This switch 62 could subsequently be used to trip the indicator lamp 30 on the rear wall 58 of the parking structure 18.